CHRISTMAS CHIMES!

How they add to the Christmas spirit! "Silent Night, Holy Night"—"Adeste Fideles" —pealing out on crisp air that is richly laden with the memories of other Christmas seasons —of that One memorable Christmas-tide centuries ago. Each Christmas sees an ever increasing number of churches enjoying the benefits that come through the installation of Golden Voiced Tower Chimes.

A CHURCH AND COMMUNITY NEED

Not only at Christmas time but at every other season of the year these Modern Tower Chimes confer incalculable benefits through reaching the strays and non-attendants—those whom the Church most of all wants to reach but who shun every ordinary invitation. When Chimes are installed there is invariably a noticeable spiritual awakening in the community—new faces are seen in the congregation;

THE HIT OF A RANDOM SHOT.

1 Kings 22:34 And a certain man drew a bow at a venture, and smote the King of Israel between the joints of the harness.

INTRO. Another text from O.T. and having to do with the same King Ahab of our other Sunday nite sermon of a couple weeks ago. After the King learned that the man whom appeared before him in sack-cloth and ashes was a prophet, the prophet told the King that because of his wickedness God was not going to permit him to live, that he was going to be slain in battle.

So after that King Ahab went heavily armored and always under dusguise so the enwmy would not recognize him. But- and here is where our text comes in- read.

A random shot that hit the mark, successful, not because of its aimlessnass , but in spite of it. Seemingly it was chance, luck; but not so- it was under the direction of God, and when God aims He always hits.

Nothing in the text to encourage thotless, aimless service. In every sphere the aimless life is the wasted life.

I. But often as soldiers of the Cross of Christ we do not know just where to aim.

Wickedness all around us just as Israelitish soldiers were all around the Syrians. But the Syrian King knew that just killing off the soldiers of Ahab would not help much- the king would raise more soldiers. The King himself must be sld in.

The same with the suppression of unrighteousness. Take the bootleggers. The little fellows caught are soon repkaced. But how can the real kings of bootlegging be caught? The evils which lie at the root, where are they and what are they?

Then there is the same difficulty in combating the forces of evil within ourselves. The ruling wrong, the master passion often is hidden in disguise so that we are not even awayre of it.

The proud man often does'nt know he's proud. Many Xns who are worldly do not realize it themselves. Even within ourselves, on the battlefields of our own hearts our arch-enemy, the king, is in disguise, and the best that we often can do is to fire a random shot, take aim at a

venture.

Now if it is so hard to discriminate between our own personal evils, how much harder is it to between the evils of others?

"In men whom men pronounce as ill
I find so much of goodness still;
In men whom men pronounce divine
I find so much of sin and blot
That I dare not draw the line
Between them where God has not."

Preachers often feel themselves helpless in this respect. Some evil foreee at work in dusguise is at work among his people, but he cannot locate it definitely. His aiming is useless and he does'nt know what to do.

II. And tho the bow must be drawn at a venture, oftentime the arrow may hit the mark.

Of course we must aim definitely if possible; we must work for Christ with intelligence and knowledge, with all our might and with all the light we have.

Then when we are compelled to work in the dark, as it were, and we do our best God steps in and directs our shots.

It always pays to shoot for Christ, whether in definite aim or at a venture.

During Chinese-Japanese war, trainload of soldiers passing thruSuzakawa, one of them tossed a copy of the gospels out of the window thru the open window of a house. Thru that single book the head of the house and all in the house became Xns.

God can protect by small things as well as by great things. The Privadence of God works in wonderful ways.

When Felix of Uola and his followers were fleeingfrom their pursuers and took refuge in a cave. Soon their pursuers approached but did not enter the cave in search because across the opening there was a large network of spiderweb. Right after the cave had been entered the spider wove his web.

You say it just happened? I say that God is the only explanation of it.

The minuteness of the providence of God. New equipment at Harvard Observatory. Star to appear certain day at 5:20

We dont trust God's providence enough. We think that if we cannot do anything neither can God. But God often works in a mysterious way his wonders to perform.

Once a careless Mrs.King's request for Gospels.

Once a careless and godless young man was crossing the London Bridge when a lady put a tract in his hand. That tract was the means of leading that young man to Chrsit, and that young man became the great preacher Spurgeon.

"A certain man drew a bow at a venture."

III. In our text there is also a message of warning.

It warns us against the futility of fighting against God.

Ahab put on his whole armor and disguised himself, but the arrow fired without aim reached him. No disguise can conceal from the all-seeing eye of God

No armour can stand against the shapfts of God.

God has condemned evil and all evil shall perish off the face of the earth.

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(Played by Organist from Electric Keyboard)

Inventive genius has made the operation of Modern Tower Chimes as simple and easy as picking out a tune with one finger on the piano. The tone—round, full and velvety—is fully controlled by electrically operated striking actions and dampers which latter prevent all tone intermingling. Cost is moderate. Concerted action will enable US to have Chimes ringing by NEXT Christmas.

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